

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A program supplying method for supplying a program from a server through a network to an image forming apparatus ~~a user terminal~~ including an apparatus ~~a terminal~~ main body and one or more of a plurality of different optional units combined therewith, the program supplying method comprising:

initiating, in response to a user input to the image forming apparatus, a program supplying operation for supplying the program;

determining an operating environment of the image forming apparatus ~~user terminal~~ based on which one or more of the plurality of different optional units is ~~that are~~ combined with the apparatus ~~terminal~~ main body;

transmitting, from the image forming apparatus through the network to the server before the program is supplied, operating environment information indicative of the determined operating environment; ~~from the user terminal through the network to the server before the program is supplied; and~~

determining at the server whether the program is operable in the operating environment based on the operating environment information and transmitting, from the server through the network to the image forming apparatus, a result of the determination ~~from the server through the network to the user terminal; and~~

supplying the program from the server to the image forming apparatus if the program is determined to be operable in the operating environment.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying at the image forming apparatus ~~user terminal~~ the result of the determination as to whether the program is operable.

Claims 3 and 4 (Canceled).

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a program list indicative of programs which can be supplied by the server;
transmitting the program list from the server through the network to the image forming apparatus ~~user terminal~~; and
selecting the ~~the~~ [[a]] program from the program list.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising:

generating a program list indicative of programs operable in the operating environment of the image forming apparatus ~~user terminal~~ based on the operating environment information;
transmitting the program list from the server through the network to the image forming apparatus ~~user terminal~~; and
selecting the ~~the~~ [[a]] program from the program list.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising:

when the program is determined as being inoperable, recording, at the server, the result of the determination as information regarding ~~on the~~ image forming apparatus ~~user terminal~~, ~~at the server~~.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The program supplying method of claim 1, further comprising:

installing the program supplied from the server through the network ~~on to~~ the image forming apparatus user terminal, thereby extending functions of the image forming apparatus user terminal.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A program supplying system comprising:
an image forming apparatus a-user terminal including an apparatus a-terminal main body and one or more of a plurality of different optional units combined therewith;
a server from which a program is supplied through a network to the image forming apparatus user terminal,

wherein the image forming apparatus user terminal further includes an operating portion operable by a user to initiate a program supplying operation and operating environment determining means for determining an operating environment of the image forming apparatus user terminal based on which one or more of the plurality of different optional units that are combined with the apparatus terminal main body, the image forming apparatus transmitting and transmits operating environment information indicative of the determined operating environment through the network to the server before the program is supplied, and

wherein the server includes operation determining means for determining whether the program is operable in the operating environment based on the operating environment information received from the image forming apparatus, the server transmitting and transmits a result of the determination as to operability through the network to the user terminal image forming apparatus, and

wherein the server transmits the program to the image forming apparatus if the program is determined by the operating determining means to be operable in the operating environment of the image forming apparatus.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The program supplying system of claim 9, wherein the operating portion of the mage forming apparatus user terminal further includes a operating and inputting means operable by a user and display means for displaying information,
the user terminal being started in response to an operation of the operating and inputting means to transmit the operating environment information indicative of the operating environment

determined by the operating environment determining means through the network to the server, and to display the result of the determination received from the operation determining means of the server on the display means.

Claims 11 and 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The program supplying system of claim 10, wherein the server further includes list generating means for generating a program list indicative of programs which can be supplied to the image forming apparatus user terminal, the server transmitting and transmits the program list through the network to the image forming apparatus user terminal, and

the image forming apparatus user terminal displays the program list on the display means, and selects the [[a]] program is selected from the program list in response to an operation of the operating portion and inputting means.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The program supplying system of claim 10, wherein the server further includes list generating means for generating a program list indicative of programs operable in the operating environment of the image forming apparatus user terminal, and the server transmits the program list through the network to the image forming apparatus user terminal, and

the image forming apparatus user terminal displays the program list on the display means, and selects the [[a]] program is selected from the program list in response to an operation of the operating portion and inputting means.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The program supplying system of claim 9, wherein the server further includes recording means for recording information regarding on the image forming apparatus user terminal, and the server records the result of the determination in the recording means when the operation determining means determines the program as being inoperable.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The program supplying system of claim 9, wherein the image forming apparatus ~~installs user terminal~~ ~~may install~~ the program supplied from the server to the image forming apparatus ~~user terminal~~ through the network, thereby extending functions of the image forming apparatus ~~user terminal~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The program supplying system of claim 9, wherein the image forming apparatus ~~user terminal~~ is ~~at least one of a personal computer and~~ a complex type digital image forming apparatus.

Claims 18 and 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (New): A method of supplying a program from a server to one or more image forming apparatuses each of which respectively comprises a main body and one or more of a plurality of different optional units combined with the main body thereof, the program supplying method comprising:

sending from one of the image forming apparatuses to the server, in response to a user input to that one image forming apparatus, a request for a list of programs;

sending from the server to the one image forming apparatus, in response to the program list request received from the one image forming apparatus, an operating environment information request;

determining, in response to the operating environment information request received from the server, an operating environment of the one image forming apparatus, the operating environment being based at least in part on which one or more of the plurality of different optional units are combined with the main body thereof;

sending from the one image forming apparatus to the server operating environment information indicative of the determined operating environment;

determining, based on the operating environment information received from the one image forming apparatus, which programs stored in the server are operable in the one image forming apparatus;

sending from the server to the one image forming apparatus a list of the programs stored in the server that are operable in the one image forming apparatus;

displaying the program list received from the server on a display of the one image forming apparatus;

receiving at the one image forming apparatus a user input selecting one of the programs from the program list;

sending from the one image forming apparatus to the server, in response to the user input, selection data corresponding to the program selected from the program list; and

sending from the server to the one image forming apparatus, in response to the selection data received from the one image forming apparatus, the selected program.

Claim 21 (New): A method of supplying a program from a server to one or more image forming apparatuses each of which respectively comprises a main body and one or more of a plurality of different optional units combined with the main body thereof, the program supplying method comprising:

sending from one of the image forming apparatuses to the server, in response to a user input to that one image forming apparatus, a request for a list of programs;

sending from the server to the one image forming apparatus, in response to the program list request received from the one image forming apparatus, the list of programs;

displaying the program list received from the server on a display of the one image forming apparatus;

receiving at the one image forming apparatus a user input selecting one of the programs from the program list;

sending from the one image forming apparatus to the server, in response to the user input, selection data corresponding to the program selected from the program list;

sending from the server to the one image forming apparatus, in response to the selection data received from the one image forming apparatus, an operating environment information request;

determining, in response to the operating environment information request received from the server, an operating environment of the one image forming apparatus, the operating

environment being based at least in part on which one or more of the plurality of different optional units are combined with the main body thereof;

sending from the one image forming apparatus to the server operating environment information indicative of the determined operating environment;

determining, based on the operating environment information received from the one image forming apparatus, whether the selected program is operable in the one image forming apparatus;

sending from the server to the one image forming apparatus, if the selected program is operable in the one image forming apparatus, the selected program; and

sending from the server to the one image forming apparatus, if the selected program is not operable in the one image forming apparatus, an invitation to select another program.